

State receives work plans for wash

Review-Journal

Two companies that have produced ammonium perchlorate near Henderson turned in work plans this week to state environmental officials for determining how the rocket fuel ingredient is entering Las Vegas Wash.

Trace amounts of the chemical, perchlorate, have turned up in Lake Mead and have been detected in Southern Nevada's treated drinking water system.

Brenda Pohlmann, Remediation Branch supervisor for the state Environmental Protection Division, said the work plans from Kerr-McGee Chemical Corp.

and American Pacific Corp. are vital to the second phase of the state's probe into Lake Mead's perchlorate contamination.

American Pacific Corp. was the parent company of the plant known as PEPCON, or Pacific Engineering & Production Co. of Nevada, which was leveled by a series of explosions in 1988.

In the first phase, potential sources of the perchlorate contamination were identified from samples collected in ground water layers near the production sites and in Las Vegas Wash.

In the second phase, which is expected to take about six

months to complete, the companies will attempt to find where tainted ground water is flowing into the wash.

"They want to get a good, detailed map of the hydrogeology," Pohlmann said, explaining that the third phase, or cleanup, won't begin until about May after the companies have figured out where and how the tainted water can be intercepted and treated.

"PEPCON has more work to do because they don't have as many wells on the property. They need to focus on the plant site more than Kerr-McGee," she said.

Las Vegas 11/5/97